REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 14, 2006. Claims 1 to 15, 27 to 29, 32 to 35, 38 and 41 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 15, 27 and 33 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 12, 15 to 23 and 27 to 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,795,205 (Gacek). Claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gacek in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,313,921 (Kadowaki), and Claim 13 was rejected under § 103(a) over Gacek in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 (Weigley). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 7 recite, *inter alia*, obtaining, from electronic data for which an instruction to print has been issued, information identifying an application which issued the instruction to print the electronic data, wherein the information is obtained using an application interface (API). Claim 15 recites, *inter alia*, receiving information obtained from electronic data for which an instruction to print has been issued, the information identifying an application which issued the instruction to print the electronic data. Claims 27 and 33 recite, *inter alia*, extracting, from electronic data for which an instruction to print has been issued, information identifying an application which issued the instruction to print the electronic data, wherein the information is extracted by calling a printer driver module and an API.

In contrast, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest any of the foregoing features.

As understood by Applicant, Gacek discloses authorized transmission of print data from an internet application to a home access device. The home access device is connected to a printer and is serviced by a remote print server which controls data transmission to the home access device. Authorization to transmit print data from the internet application to the home access device is obtained from an intermediary service, and the authorized print data is transmitted to the home access device by the remote print server for printing on the printer. See Gacek, Abstract.

Page 3 of the Office Action asserts that Gacek (Column 12, lines 13 to 17 and 31 to 58 and Column 17, line 49 to Column 18, line 16) discloses an intermediary service or server storing user preferences related to which third-party internet applications can "push" print jobs to a printer, which the Office Action equates with obtaining information identifying an application which has issued an instruction to print electronic data.

However, it is not seen how Gacek's user preferences can identify an application which issued a specific instruction to print, as the preferences are standing rules used to filter all print requests. See Gacek, Column 12, lines 31 to 36 and Column 17, line 49 to Column 18, line 12. Moreover, Gacek's user preferences must be pre-selected by a user and stored in a database before a third-party application can even attempt to request printing, and thus cannot be extracted or obtained from electronic data for which an instruction to print has issued. See Gacek, Column 17, line 28 to Column 18, line 42.

In another feature of the invention recited by Claims 1 and 7, an authentication request is executed for approving an output process of the electronic data

based on the information identifying the application. In another feature of the invention recited by Claim 15, an authentication request is sent to a server appended with the information selected from the information identifying the application which issued the instruction to print. In another feature of the invention recited by Claims 27 and 33, information identifying an application which issued the instruction to print the electronic data is output to an apparatus in order to use the information for an authentication.

In contrast, the applied art is not seen to disclose the foregoing features.

Page 3 of the Office Action asserts that Gacek's print jobs are allowed or denied based on the user preferences, which the Office Action equates with authenticating electronic data to be printed based on information identifying the application which issued an instruction to print the data. However, Gacek's "authorization" of a print job involves negotiations between a third-party merchant application and an intermediary service, rather than using the electronic data to be printed. See Gacek, Column 11, line 50 to Column 12, line 6. Moreover, as noted above, Gacek's user preferences are pre-selected rules that are not seen to relate to any particular data to be printed, or which application issued a particular instruction to print.

In still another feature of the invention recited by Claims 1 and 7, a print process is controlled so as to permit execution of image processing in response to a success of an authentication, or to deny execution of image processing in response to a failure of the authentication. In still another feature of the invention recited by Claim 15, a controlling step controls a printer to execute a print process using electronic data when

authentication has succeeded, and controls so as to deny the print process when authentication has been denied.

In contrast, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest these features.

In particular, Gacek's authorization determines whether a job can be transmitted to a user, but is not seen to be used to control actual execution of a print process. See Gacek, Column 11, line 66 to Column 12, line 19.

Kadowaki and Weigley have been reviewed and are not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Gacek.
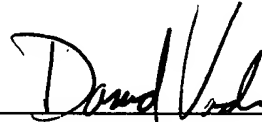
Therefore, independent Claims 1, 7, 15, 27 and 33 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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